Pawlet, Vt. Jan. 4th 1854

Dear Brother:

I suppose a letter from your brother will not be unacceptable to you, even if it be destitute of entertaining matter. I have been exceedingly anxious to hear how you succeed in the labors of of the winter, and whether your health continues good as when I left you. Therefore I will write you a few lines, trusting that you will not delay in returning an answer at your earliest convenience. I can only say with regard to myself, that I am situated here for the most part as I had anticipated. Am leading a very retired life, and my labor is quite easy. There are under my care 10 or 12 scholars the greater part of the time, 4 of whom are studying Latin and Greek. I stay in the school room 6 hours per day; although my time is not wholly occupied with the scholars during this time. What time remains aside from that which has to be devoted to my school, I occupy in pursuing my own studies. Thus situated, I acknowledge that my task is quite easy, and probably many would consider it a desirable one. But as for me, I have about come to the conclusion that these "easy times", which people sometimes talk about, are not so very

desirable after all. Notwithstanding all the trouble and litigation which harassed me last winter, I still believe that I derived more enjoyment from my labors, than I now experience in my present easy situation. When my mind was constantly active; my labors were sufficient to arouse my energies, and create within me something like ambition in their performance. But now, on the other hand, being pressed with few cares, and having few companions to associate with, I find myself becoming dull and stupid; Perhaps I accomplish but little more in the way of study, than I should accomplish, if I were burdened with a large school. And instead of enjoying this season of retirement, I am only longing to have the period of my service expire, so that I may return to more active pursuits. All that I have done in my college studies during the five weeks which I have spent here is, simply to read through my Zoology. At this rate I shall not more than half accomplish my fall studies during the winter.

I have heard nothing from Middlebury or from any of the students since I left you. The only letter I have received was from Sumner, and that was received several weeks ago. I would like very much to know how all the boys are prospering. You doubtless are located

where you hear about them occasionally.
Be pleased to send me such information
in regard to them as you may possess.
I wonder what the Pres. and Faculty of the
college are doing for the benefit of the world
this vacation. Is anything being done to promote
the interest of the college? or do all hands sit
calmly at their ease, and indulge themselves
in the same old prophecy, "Middlebury's coming
up"! This song has lost its charm for me, and
I have well nigh lost my interest in the
affairs of the institution. The time is near
at hand when I must bid adieu to Middlebury
and all the scenes of college life. And I feel that I
can do this without shedding many bitter tears
provided some acceptable location presents
itself to me in the meantime.
Do you hear anything from the folks in Sang-
don? It is a very rare thing for me to get
a letter from home. I seldom receive one
without writing once or twice expressly for
it. If there is anybody in your district
with whom I am acquainted,
please to give them my best respects. Two
of Mr. Bond's family I became acquainted
with at Brandon.

Accept this with the best wishes
of your friend and brother, Lolon.

Dolon Albee
1851

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1851

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Mr. Ellery Albee,
Cornwall, Vt,